For Immediate Release:

Tuesday, September 20, 2011

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House Redistricting Committees Review Public Input From Statewide Redistricting Meetings

More than 5,000 Floridians attended 26 meetings throughout Florida

Tallahassee, Fla. – Following a series of 26 meetings to gather public input about the Florida Legislature's redistricting efforts, members of the House redistricting committees convened Monday to begin reviewing the information and ideas provided by the more than 2,000 Floridians who presented their thoughts as part of the statewide tour. Meetings were held by the House Redistricting Committee, House Redistricting Subcommittee, Senate Redistricting Subcommittee and the Congressional Redistricting Subcommittee.

"Using the ideas we received from the public as our guide, we are honoring our commitment to start the redistricting process with the valuable information provided to us from Floridians of every corner of the state," said House Redistricting Committee Chairman Will Weatherford (R-Wesley Chapel). "The volume of information we have received has been historic and we will continue to seek input from Floridians throughout the process."

On Monday, committee members heard summaries of the spoken and written testimony provided by individuals who attended the statewide series of meetings this summer. In addition, the summaries also covered public input received via letters, social media and actual maps that were submitted for the Legislature's consideration.

Floridians are encouraged to continue submitting their own ideas for maps to the House via email, social media, or any other method, including through the Florida House's MyDistrictBuilderTM application. Although, at today's Redistricting Committee meeting, Chairman Will Weatherford did recommend that the public come forward with any new ideas prior to November 1. Otherwise, input received after that date will be used in response to the maps being developed by the committees and members of the House.

To date, the Florida House has received 64 complete or partial maps, including 21 complete and 14 partial Congressional maps, four complete and 15 partial House maps, and five complete and five partial Senate maps. Individuals from nearly every age group, including students and seniors, are utilizing the MyDistrictBuilderTM program.

Future committee meetings will be available through the 'Broadcasts' section of the Florida House of Representatives website. Additionally, archived footage of all committee and subcommittee meetings is available on the Florida House's individual Redistricting committee and subcommittee pages. After today's meetings, committee members will now begin using the public input collected for their own maps in preparation for the 2012 Legislative Session, which begins January 10, 2012. Floridians may follow the Redistricting committees on Twitter and Facebook or email committee staff directly at MyDistrictBuilder@myfloridahouse.gov.